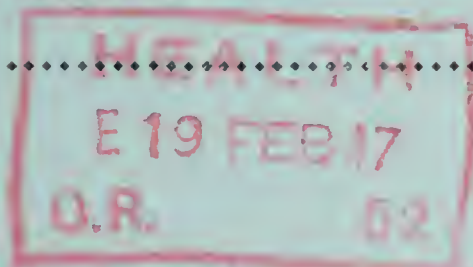


LIBRARY



Meltham

Urban District Council



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1945



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29795321>

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Meltham Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

The Public Health Officers of the Council are ;—

Medical Officer of Health ... Dr. Robert Gellatly, M.D.C.M.

Sanitary Inspector ... Mr. R. G. Suddick

Left 30th April, 1945

Mr. E. Waller

Commenced duties 1st July, 1945

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time one.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Building Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council and devotes his whole time to the duties of those offices. A contribution to the salaries of these Officers is made by the County Council under arrangement with the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA.—The area of the district is 5,906 acres.

POPULATION.—The population at the 1931 Census of Meltham Urban District was 5,051, and the Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in 1945, is 4,653. This includes the area added to the district in 1938.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1945, according to the Rate Book, was 1,724.

The rateable value of the district on the 1st April 1945, was £30,325, and a penny rate produced £121 3s. 9d.

The principal industries now carried on in the district are engineering and woollen manufacture, silk dressing, brick making and mixed farming.

These occupations cannot be said to be detrimental to the health of those engaged in them.

VITAL STATISTICS

(Based on the Registrar-General's estimated population of 4,653)

LIVE BIRTHS	Total			M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident civil population 15.47
	Legitimate ..	71	44			
	Illegitimate ..	1	1		0	
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate ..	3	3		0	} Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births) Births 16.11
	Illegitimate ..	0	0		0	

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population 00.64

DEATHS	..	..	83	43	40	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the civilian population 17.83

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

				Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil	...	Nil
Other Pueeperal causes	...	...	Nil	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

				M	F
Total	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	Nil
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	Nil
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

The causes of death were:—				M	F
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System				-	2
„ Other forms	...			1	-
Influenza...	...	...	...	-	1
Cancer—stomach and duodenum				1	1
„ breast	...	...	...	-	1
„ other sites	...	...		5	7
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...			9	6
Heart Disease	...	...	...	8	11
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...			2	-
„ Digestive Diseases	...			1	-
Nephritis	...	...	...	5	4
Other Maternal Diseases	...			-	1
Suicide	...	...	...	1	-
Other violent causes	...	...		-	1
All other causes...	...	...		4	1
				—	—
				43	40
				—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

There are no developments or changes to record.

Water Supply

The water supply during the year has been adequate and wholesome in quality.

24,060,650 gallons have been purchased from the Huddersfield Corporation as follows:—

By meter	...	...	18,643,000 gallons
„ Lea Recorder	...		5,417,650 „

Sewerage and Drainage

The Contract commenced in 1944 on alteration to the sewage works was completed during the year.

Rivers and Streams

No action found necessary in regard to pollution

Closet Accommodation

The closets of each type remaining at the end of 1945 are:—

	Total	Private	Common
Water Closets ...	1075	876	199
Earth Closets ...	140	67	73
Tub Closets ...	169	109	60
	1384	1052	332

The Council supply ash bins on request to property owners at a small margin above cost price, and in approved cases make a grant of £2 and a free dust-bin where owners convert to water closet

Salvage

The collection of salvage has been undertaken since early in 1940, and paper, string, rubber, bones, rags and metals are collected, sorted and sold, the paper being baled

Public Cleansing

Amount of refuse removed 1,942 tons 10 cwts. (est. weight). Mileage covered by cleansing wagon, 6,302

Refuse is disposed of at the Wood Bottom Tip on the controlled system

The cost of the Cleansing Services for the past year is as follows:—

Total Cost ...	£
Credits from various sources, including Sale of Salvaged Materials	1718
	198
	1520

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

INSPECTIONS. NATURE.	Number	NOTICES.			
		Informal (inclu. Verbal)	Formal	Complied with	Outstand- ing at end of year
Infectious Diseases	35	...	...	...	...
Disinfection	35	...	...	...	...
Nuisances	78	61	...	60	1
Dwellings	193	181	...	181	12
Cowsheds	36	3	...	3	...
Bakehouses	12	2	...	2	...
Slaughter Houses.....	4	...	...	...	...
Privies and Pail Closets	91	27	...	27	...
Workshops, Workplaces	37	7	...	7	...
Schools	6	1	...	1	...
Rats & Mice Dest. Act	73	5	...	5	...

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

Under a transfer of powers inaugurated by the Ministry of Food, the Council became the responsible authority for the operation of this Act in their Area. Previously the Act was administered by the County Council.

Seventy-three inspections were made for rats during the year. In five cases the standard treatment laid down by the Ministry of Food was applied and these minor infestations cleared.

Shops Act. Ventilation and Temperature

No action taken under present circumstances

Smoke Abatement

No action taken under present circumstances

Swimming Baths

No public baths in the area

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No houses were found infested during the year

Schools

The following are the particulars relating to the water supply to the Schools in the area, *viz.*—

Meltham..... ..	Piped Main Supply
Meltham Mills ...	„
Helme..... ..	„
Wilshaw..... ..	Piped from Private Supply

There is also a small private kindergarten school supplied from the Council's main:

All the schools were visited during the year, and no action was found necessary.

It has not been necessary to close any school during the year for the purpose of checking the spread of infectious disease.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Inspections have been made during the year

HOUSING

Housing activities have naturally been restricted during the war, and no new houses have been provided in the district either by the Council or by private individuals.

Ministry of Health approval was received to proceed with the construction of roads and sewers to extend the Broadlands Housing Site for 88 houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

There are 6 Accredited producers in the Area. The local Co-operative Society also sell sterilised milk. The number of cowkeepers registered is 34 and amongst them they occupy 54 cowsheds and maintain some 400 milk cows.

The supply and distribution of the milk is in the hands of the producers, the farmers, of whom 29 are producer retailers, and 5 dispose of their milk wholesale.

Inspection of dairies and cowsheds is carried out as often as travelling facilities permit.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No slaughtering for sale is done in the district under present conditions.

Visits have been paid to shops and stores in the district, and, generally speaking, these are well kept.

There are four bakehouses in the district. The premises are regularly inspected and are clean and satisfactory.

There has been no reported case of Food Poisoning during the year.

(c) ADULTERATION

The Council is not the Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, etc.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Arrangements have been made to maintain a supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin at the Isolation Hospital.

Artificial immunization against Diphtheria has been carried out both privately and by the County Council at the Schools and Clinics.

Prevalence of disease at Schools is notified by the School Attendance Officer.

The District was free from any serious outbreak of non-notifiable infectious disease during the year.

An epidemic of measles occurred during the early months of the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1945

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever.....	32	... 32 ...	...
Diphtheria	3	... 3 ...	1
Erysipelas	1		...
Pneumonia	6		...
Measles	144		...
Whooping Cough ...	15		...

ANALYSIS

Age ..	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-45	45 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	8	15	6	2	...	1	32
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	1	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia	1	2	...	...	2	1	6
Measles... ..	58	75	11	...	...	...	144
Whooping Cough...	12	3	...	...	...	...	15
Total.....	80	95	18	2	3	3	201

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 2 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

During the year 1 death was registered as due to Tuberculosis of Other Form.

Four new cases were added to the register during the year:—

1—Pulmonary	...	...	F	18
1—Pulmonary	...	...	F	16
1—Non-Pulmonary	...	...	M	2
1—Pulmonary	...	...	M	38

The notification of Tuberculosis is satisfactory

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action taken during the year

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Council maintain an Ambulance for use in accident cases and for the removal of serious cases of non-infectious disease when certified to be necessary by a doctor.

An Ambulance for cases of infectious disease is run by the Colne and Holme Joint Hospital Board from the Hospital at Meltham.

MORTUARY

The Council maintain a mortuary to accommodate accidents and other cases where death is not due to infectious disease. Facilities are provided for post-mortem examinations.

In conclusion I should like to pay tribute to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials for the assistance and courtesy extended to me during the year, and to the Sanitary Inspector for his loyal co-operation in my work.

I am,

Miss Haigh and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. GELLATLY.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1945.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1231 Census)	London Administ'r've County	Meltham
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
Births—					
Live	16.1†	19.1	19.2	15.7	15.47
Still	0.46‡	0.58	0.53	0.40	00.64
Deaths—					
All Causes.. .. .	11.4‡	13.5	12.3	13.8	17.83
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	—
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.21
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age ..	46†	54	43	53	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	—
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Notifications—					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	—
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	6.87
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	3.22
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.64
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.21
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	30.94
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	1.28
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)					
(a) Notifications—					
Puerperal Fever .. .	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .				15.87§	
(b) Maternal Mortality— England and Wales.					
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-50 Other		
0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22		
Abortion— Mortality per million women aged 15-45—England and Wales.					
No. 140 With Sepsis		No. 141 Without Sepsis			
18		6			
*A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths. †Per 1,000 related births. ‡Rates per 1,000 Total population. §Including Puerperal fever.					

